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TheHighlander

Thursday **August 13 2026** | Issue 752

INSIDE: REMEMBERING LEN SALVATORI PAGE 12 **FREE**

County and local councillors listen as EORN delivers its report inside new council chambers on Wednesday (Aug. 12). *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

County considers significant changes

By Lisa Gervais

Consultants, the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN), have presented four governance models for Haliburton County – with the 2026-30 councils tasked with choosing one of them.

However, in its affordability and governance structure study, EORN supplied financials indicating taxpayers can no longer afford the current two-tier governance structure of the County and local townships (model one) – leaving three viable options.

They are model two: a single-tier governance model. Essentially amalgamation, it would consolidate responsibility for all municipal services, decision-making, taxation, planning and administration into one municipal government.

An example is Prince Edward County; created in 1998 through the amalgamation of the Town of Picton, villages of Bloomfield and Wellington, and 10 surrounding townships. Another is Quinte West, bringing the former City of Trenton, village of Frankford, and townships of Murray and Sidney together.

Model three is an 'enhanced County – four local municipalities.' Under it, the County would assume responsibility for a majority of services that benefit from scale, specialized expertise, consistent standards, and regional planning.

Continued **'Concerns'** on page 2

Highlander news

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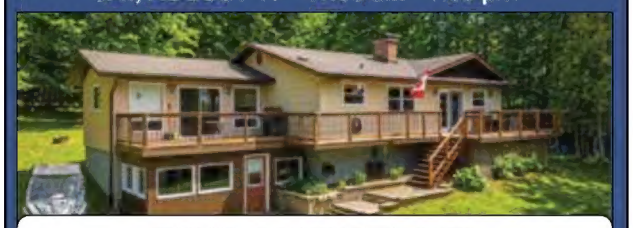

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Concerns about affordability

Continued from page 1

That could potentially mean: planning and development, building and permitting administration, public works and infrastructure, waste and environmental services, IT and digital services, procurement, HR, communications, finance, asset management, economic development and tourism, libraries, and facilities all County responsibilities.

The four local councils would focus on community-based services, local representation, customer service, recreation programming, community events, local heritage, local bylaw matters, and neighbourhood-level priorities.

Model four is referred to as 'enhanced County – two local municipalities.' It would see the County take on similar responsibilities as model three, but also, potentially, fire administration and emergency management, policing oversight, airport management and health centre services

The four existing local municipalities would be consolidated into two larger local municipalities, each with its own council and streamlined staffing structure. For example, Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands could align, with Dysart et al joining forces with Highlands East. They would have similar roles to model three. Some examples of these models are Oxford County, and Wellington County in Ontario.

Consultant Jim Pine told *The Highlander*, "the models are pretty significant in terms of potential change, other than staying the same. There's a lot for everybody to consider. The good news is there's time to do that in a very reasoned, and rational way. It will require more work but nonetheless, the way it's been structured in terms of the study process is going to give future council an opportunity to decide what change, if any, that they prefer."

County CAO Gary Dyke said timelines and how the services might change would be up to councils. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Affordability

EORN said it did in-depth community engagement in June and July; including a survey and open houses, as well as consulting all councils, staff and stakeholders.

Affordability was the number one theme. Eighty-two per cent of respondents expressed concern about affordability, and 80 per cent about rising taxes and costs. More than three-quarters said governments could work more collaboratively and efficiently. More than half thought significant changes may be needed to improve overall governance.

EORN found that property taxes are supporting $70.6 million of $102.4 million in expenditures in all five municipalities in 2026.

In addition, all five are relying on reserves to support day-to-day operations. From 2023-26, the governments only contributed $19.7 million to reserves, while withdrawing $47.1 million.

This is not considered good business and should only be done when the offsetting expenditure has a defined end, or there is an approved financial plan to eliminate the need for reserve funding over time.

EORN also found that cumulatively, $29 million in additional debt was taken on over the past four years to support capital expenditures.

EORN stressed in its 178-page report that, "experience from comparable municipalities demonstrates that governance restructuring does not, on its own, guarantee lower taxes or immediate financial savings.

"Long-term benefits are more likely to result from improved organizational capacity, coordinated planning, reduced administrative duplication, strategic investment, and continuous improvement in service delivery."

Work not done

The study is not complete. Pine said, "there's a lot more that needs to be done in order to give people all of the information they might need.

"The details take time because you've got to figure out how you want to deliver the service, how much staff do you need, who do you need, where do you want to put them … those things take time and careful analysis."

To see the full report, go to wadein.haliburton.ca

No AI slop

Highlander news

Councillors wade in on governance report

By Lisa Gervais

Maureen Adams, and Jim Pine, presented the EORN report to councillors Wednesday (Aug. 12). *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Deputy warden, Liz Danielsen, told County council Wednesday (Aug. 12), she recalled a Haliburton Highlands Chamber of Commerce meeting 12 years ago in which two or three "very well-respected local folks were stamping their feet saying there's nothing but amalgamation to be done."

A single-tier government is one of just four models the Eastern Ontario Regional Network (EORN) presented to County and local councillors. The others are status quo, or hybrid models.

Danielsen said back in 2014, she thought "no way" to amalgamation at that chamber meeting, factoring in things such as losing local identity.

"Over time, you start to see the true need for change. We truly do need to do something because we cannot sustain ourselves financially without massive increases in taxes, or doing something different."

Danielsen, looking around a County table that had not just County councillors, but local councillors as well, added they had to work closer together. "More partnerships, more discussion, we need to play nice in the sandbox in order for us to improve things and keep life the way we want it to be in Haliburton County."

She questioned if there was any room for the current council to have further input, despite already deferring the decision to the 2026-30 councils. For example, she wondered if it made sense to have a deeper dive only into models palatable to councils.

Coun. Walt McKechnie said he's passionate about Dysart et al and would do what is best for its taxpayers. He's worried about loss of identity.

"I just feel that this process right now is being really rushed, especially for the new council coming in."

He said he couldn't understand why the report did not mention amalgamations that had resulted in higher taxes. He said he would expect single-tier to produce lower taxes and better services.

Referring to something sent to him when he was driving to yesterday's meeting, McKechnie read out examples of post-amalgamation figures from his phone; that City of Kawartha Lakes employee compensation had jumped 52 per cent and spiked property taxes; Haldimand County property taxes rose by 50 per cent … and other examples *The Highlander* was unable to verify as of press time.

He said he was unaware of good stories around amalgamation.

Counsultant Maureen Adams said she did not think County council wanted to commit to lowering taxes, but to building capacity, so, for example, there was not a need to do five audits, fives sets of financial statements, five budgets, five asset management plans, etc. so they could put more money into infrastructure and capital.

Pine, who was involved in the Quinte West amalgamation, urged councillors to look at what levy increases would look like going forward if they don't change.

In the case of their four municipalities, he said, "we all came to the recognition we could stay the same, but what we wanted to do was more. And we realized on our own, we couldn't do more. If public service is about the public and service, what can we do differently that will improve things … ?"

He said from 1995-96 to where the city is today, "it's growing … they were able to hard top all the gravel roads in one year …" They were able to open an industrial park." He said it is an example of a success story.

Burton said there were differences in assessment base and population.

Coun. Pat Casey said the models were akin to a merger-acquisition, "and we need very solid financial data and efficiency data as to how much will be saved.

"Show us the money. Show us the efficiencies and then walk through the process of how we are to collectively vote on it or implement it. We need a crystal-clear picture of its benefits." He suggested they continue to work on service delivery review suggestions.

Danielsen asked Pine what his choice would be.

"Single-tier offers the greatest opportunity for reduction in duplication, the most opportunity around building capacity."

Other questions

Coun. Jennifer Dailloux wanted to drill down on things such as how the Stanhope Municipal Airport would fit into modelling, since it is owned and operated by Algonquin Highlands but offers emergency services Countywide.

She, as well as coun. Bob Carter, asked how long it would take to drill down on details for local councils.

Pine said with the airport, it could come down to transfer of responsibility. He added the details of each model would take time to sort through. He said they could be figured out before the 2030 election, or earlier.

Adams added it would be quicker looking at two models, versus four, for example. Burton asked if this council could streamline models, and Adams thought they could.

Coun. Cec Ryall questioned the possibility of a hybrid of two of the models "without having to go into a total amalgamation mode."

Pine said they could do anything they want. "What we did was try to give you what we thought made the greatest sense in terms of the affordability …"

Editor's note: The meeting was still in progress at the Highlander's deadline. See next week's edition for more coverage.

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Highlander news

Hi

No trolls

Community Living staff back to work

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

Unionized staff at Community Living Trent Highlands (CLTH) are back on the job this week after a nearly 11-week strike.

The end of the prolonged labour dispute saw four per cent initial wage increase for workers, and the return of community programs across Haliburton County.

According to CLTH executive director, Teresa Jordan, employees were greeted by management staff at locations throughout the area as Community Living transitioned from temporary replacement workers.

"We're just getting started back to our regular teams," Jordan said in an interview with *The Highlander* on Aug. 10. "Happily, everything reopens this week… by Wednesday, we will have everything back up and running and open."

The strike began on May 25, when more than 300 developmental service workers, represented by OPSEU Local 358, walked off the job. Members were fighting for a 6.5 per cent retroactive wage increase, a no-layoffs guarantee and an increase to baseline funding that supports residents living in Community Living group homes.

Under the new agreement, workers secured a four per cent wage increase in year one, retroactive to April 2025, followed by three per cent increases in years two and three.

OPSEU Local 358 president Jessica Bushey noted the significance of the deal for developmental service workers, and said they had not seen general wage increases above 1.9 per cent since 2018.

"We really did set the bar for the sector provincially," Bushey told *The Highlander*.

Members of OPSEU Local 358 are pictured on the picket line during the strike in Haliburton village in mid-July. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

"Having that retro payment will help reduce some of the costs of being on strike... This agreement wouldn't have happened without the campaign, without the strike, and without the strength of the membership."

Jordan said that while the collective agreement includes a 10 per cent salary increase over three years; other compensation items were removed from the package compared to the initial offer at the start of the strike, including the guarantee against layoffs for existing staff.

As for budget concerns amid fixed provincial funding, Jordan said she was confident in navigating the outcome.

"I think the difference for Community Living Trent Highlands is that we have a lot of diverse programs. I'm confident we can find the efficiencies that we need to find without drastically impacting service or jobs."

The local union president said the return of members brought emotional reunions between staff and residents, many who experienced disruptions to their routines while replacement staff covered shifts.

"A lot of happy tears, a lot of really good reunions happening," Bushey said. "A lot of the people supported were really happy to see the staff back."

With staff returning to work this week, the focus shifted toward workplace reconciliation.

"Our relationship can't be healed immediately when it's had this kind of trauma," Jordan admitted. "While this will be a long road back to feeling like a comfortable partnership, I just want to convey my excitement that we are now at this stage of having ended the strike and to start that work."

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Decade of Pride in the County

By Mike Baker

With Pride Week in Haliburton County right around the corner, Pride in the Highlands' volunteer lead, Chris Hewson, said the local LGBTQ+ group has had to pivot to survive over the past year.

A lack of manpower has forced festivities, running Aug. 17-23, to be scaled back for this 10th annual celebration. Last year, Hewson and his former co-chair, Allan Guinan, said the group needed to find more helping hands to assist with event planning and delivery, though that didn't pan out.

"The Pride planning committee used to be 12-people strong a few years ago. Then it dropped to nine and now we're down to seven," Hewson said. "We just don't have the time to do everything we want, so we've had to pick and choose where to put our energy. So, this year's Pride Week is a little pared back compared to what people have seen before."

Celebrations begin Aug. 17 with flag-raising ceremonies at Minden Hills township office (11 a.m.), in Stanhope at Algonquin Highlands municipal office (1 p.m.), and at A.J. LaRue Arena in Haliburton (4 p.m.).

This is the second year for the Dysart raising and first in Algonquin Highlands. Hewson feels it's important hosting flag-raisings all over the County – especially since the group officially changed its name to encompass the wider Highlands region last year.

"The raising of the flag is more than a symbol of the LGBTQ+ community; it's a beacon, a visual reminder that the Haliburton Highlands are a welcome and safe space for everybody," Hewson said.

There is no flag raising in Highlands East, though Hewson confirmed no application was submitted to the township.

Other marquee events include a collaboration with youth theatre troupe Ctrl-ART-Del, with a special reading of Paul Dunn's *Outside* at Highland Hills United Church in Minden Aug. 18 and 20 at 6:30 p.m. It follows the story of Daniel, a teen who triumphs over homophobic bullying, depression and suicidal thoughts.

There's a Pride picnic for youth at Rails End Gallery Aug. 19, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.; an artist reception and opening party for 'Voice of Pride' art exhibition at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre Aug. 19 at 7 p.m.; a screening of Pixar's *Onward* at the cultural centre Aug. 21 at 2 p.m.; and rainbow trivia night at The Dominion Hotel Aug. 21 at 7 p.m.

Pride in the Highlands' Chris Hewson. *File.*

There are also two drag storytime events planned – at Haliburton County Public Library branches in Minden (Aug. 18, 3-4 p.m.) and Haliburton (Aug. 20, 3-4 p.m.). Both will feature Minden entrepreneur Shawn Smandych in drag as his alter-ego, Auntie Plum.

"It's a literacy program… it's been very well-attended in the past, participants love it and that's why we continue to do it," Hewson said.

Asked why he felt it was appropriate to expose children to concepts like drag and what some of the benefits are, Hewson said it sparks creativity and imagination.

"When we think about the way we approach drag, it is in a very fun, imaginative and playful way… there's nothing sexual about it," Hewson said. "Drag exists in all shades of the rainbow. There are more adult-appropriate things we've done in the past, but those definitely aren't happening in the middle of the day at a library."

Pride Week will close with its rainbow street festival in downtown Minden Aug. 23, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be various vendors selling their products, musical performances, a show by NorthFIRE Circus and Gayly Forward and the always-popular river run.

Hewson said he's seen an increase in homophobic-fuelled actions, including a banner in Minden promoting Pride Week twice being cut down in recent weeks.

"We see and experience more divisive verbiage and behaviour than in the past – that comes from being more visible, present and engaged with the community. But being out is what we're about – being closeted is no place for someone to live, survive or thrive. By shining our lights as boldly as we dare, we're encouraging others to shine their lights too."

Anyone interested in getting involved can contact Hewson at chris.prideinthehighlands@gmail.com.

Name the new chairlift at Sir Sam's ski hill

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride is inviting the public to help name its new quad chairlift, set to open for the 2026-27 ski season.

The now community-owned ski resort, that has been part of the Haliburton Highlands for more than 60 years, is inviting skiers, snowboarders, residents, and visitors to take part in naming the new addition.

Sir Sam's Ski/Ride said the new chairlift, with a capacity for more than 2,000 guests per hour, "will help maintain Sir Sam's reputation for short lift lines, comfort, and safety."

An online naming contest opened Aug. 10 and closes Sept. 15 at 9 p.m. The winning entry will be announced at Sir Sam's annual Thanksgiving festival Oct. 10.

"We have selected a judging panel comprised of our staff, board members, and community representatives who will select the winning name," general manager, David Bishop, said.

Entries can be submitted online at sirsams.ca/chairlift-2026 by completing an entry form. Participants may submit up to three name ideas, with one entry per person. Everyone is encouraged to include the inspiration behind their suggestions.

The new Doppelmayr 4-CLF Alpen Star quad chairlift replaces the former Eagle View double chairlift on the Kingston run and is part of Sir Sam's ongoing modernization plan.

"The new chairlift offers a faster, more comfortable ride while improving access to runs across the entire resort," Sir Sam's Ski/Ride said.

This winter, the hill will operate five lifts, including three quad chairlifts, "continuing its commitment to providing one of Ontario's premier family skiing and learn-to-ski experiences," Bishop said.

(Lisa Gervais)

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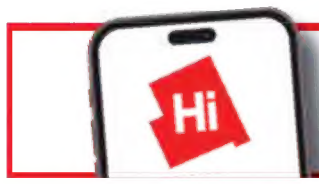

No misinformation

Cottagers rally to Water Guardians cause

By Adam Frisk
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

A single Canada goose can drop up to two pounds of poop a day, a stomach-churning fact that members of the Halls & Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association (HHLPOA) were using this past weekend (Aug. 8) to drive home a serious message about local drinking water protection.

The HHLPOA launched its new Water Guardian campaign on Saturday at Elvin Johnson Park, urging property owners to take direct action to protect vulnerable, untreated drinking water supplies.

"Because we're not within a town or city, we're relying on well water, groundwater, or surface water from lakes and rivers, and that's it," Shelley Fellows, HHLPOA president, told *The Highlander*. "For a lot of us, you turn the tap on and assume it's safe to drink… But here, we are responsible for it. It's about bringing that home, understanding that every one of us is a guardian of the water."

The initiative serves as the public outreach component of the HHLPOA's Protect Every Drop: Drinking Water Source Protection Plan. The 60-page document was created as part of a pilot project funded by the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Associations following a provincial auditor general report that highlighted gaps in non-municipal water safety.

The Water Guardian pledge encourages property owners to adopt specific practices, like maintaining their septic systems,

HHLPOA's Shelley Fellows, Beth Carey, and Olivia Tomlinson on Aug. 8 at Elvin Johnson Park during the launch of the Water Guardian initiative. *Photo by Adam Frisk.*

eliminating fertilizer and pesticide use, regularly testing their drinking water, and renaturalizing their shorelines. The renaturalization helps filter surface runoff and deters Canada geese, whose poop contributes to localized coliform bacterial contamination.

The campaign comes during a time when data indicates declining water quality across the watershed. According to Olivia Tomlinson, a Big Hawk Lake cottager who led a recent revamp of the association's broader lake plan, long-term monitoring shows water clarity and dissolved oxygen levels dropping, while algal blooms are on the rise.

"It's a very sensitive ecosystem," Tomlinson explained, noting that while changes aren't drastic just yet, there is a statistical downward trend. "The goal would be to see a stabilization... it's really about trying to correct it before it gets any worse. And I think it's totally doable. Everyone is so involved."

Tomlinson explained that waterfront properties face risks from blue-green algae blooms, which were documented on nearby Kennisis Lake last summer, as well as invasive species. She said that she had taken some water samples that indicated the potential presence of spiny water flea in local waters, though official lab verification is required.

The association is also working to address widespread gaps in water testing. An HHLPOA survey conducted last year found that 55 per cent of waterfront residents never test their drinking water, despite health unit recommendations to do so at least twice a year.

"I was one of those people who did not test my water for coliform; it just wasn't something that occurred to me," Beth Carey, HHLPOA member, admitted. The association had free water sample bottles from Lakelands Public Health on hand at Saturday's event.

The HHLPOA has several research projects underway to gather baseline scientific data, including an aquatic plant inventory and a Halls Lake causeway study that will look at how the historical filling-in of the man-made causeway near Elvin Johnson Park has impacted water flow, siltation, and plant growth in the bay.

The association aims to eventually sign up all 650 property owners to the Water Guardian program. To help track participation, HHLPOA plans to use self-assessment check-ins, waterfront display medallions, shoreline restoration contests, and social media tracking.

"Most people, if you've grown up on the lakes, know a lot of this almost instinctively, but it's a really good reminder," Tomlinson said. "Everyone has been so curious... they want to know how they can help."

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MINDEN HILLS NEWS

Schell not running

Minden Hills deputy mayor Lisa Schell has withdrawn her nomination for another run as deputy mayor in the October municipal elections.

Schell posted the news to social media July 23. She declined to be interviewed about her decision.

She said after many conversations with her family, and with "a heavy heart," she made the "difficult" decision to withdraw. She said it was one of the hardest decisions she had ever made.

"After 20 years of serving on Minden Hills council, I had hoped to continue working on behalf of this community that I love. Walking away from something that has been such a significant part of my life is incredibly painful.

"I always hoped I would know when it was time to close this chapter, and while I wish the circumstances were different, I know in my heart that this is the right decision. My health needs to come first, and I owe it to myself and to those I love to give it the attention it deserves."

Schell, who will serve until the Oct. 26 election, added that representing residents of Minden Hills has been one of the greatest privileges of her life.

"I am deeply grateful for the trust you have placed in me over the past two decades. Together, we have celebrated successes, faced challenges, and worked to make our community stronger. I will always be proud of what we have accomplished together."

Kinark rezoning

Council, at its July 23 meeting, granted Kinark rezoning to recreational commercial, from hazard land.

Planner Amanda Dougherty said Kinark is intending to build a 195-square-metre (2,096 sq. ft.) dormitory addition to the existing shower and bath house.

The town planner noted that part of the property is zoned recreational commercial (C3), which permits the existing camp. However, many of the existing buildings, including the one for expansion, were constructed on lands zoned hazard (HZ).

"To permit the expansion to the shower and bath house and appropriately recognize an additional 19 existing camp buildings, Kinark is seeking to rezone certain lands from HZ to C3," she said.

Dougherty added although there are no plans to redevelop the balance of existing buildings, the zoning is intended to facilitate any improvements that may be undertaken in the future. She said no upgrades to existing water or septic services are required.

The planner flagged no major issues with slope, site evaluation, the provincial planning statement, or official plans.

The application was recommended for approval.

Horticultural farm

A Hospitality Road resident sought a temporary use bylaw to build an accessory building for an intended horticultural farm.

Dysart deputy mayor Lisa Schell, at an Aug. 12 County council meeting, is not running in the fall election. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Doughtery told council, "the intended use of the property (at 1207 Hospitality Rd.) is a horticultural farm with the intent to establish specialty crops: including approximately 100 apples trees; 30 pear trees; and 300 blueberry bushes."

She said once the specialty crops are planted and producing, a planned expansion of the farm will continue with root vegetables, an apiary/bee yard and maple syrup harvesting.

No livestock housing or other agricultural activities are proposed at this time.

Dougherty said the building will be used exclusively for the storage of farm machinery, equipment, implements, and agricultural materials, to work the lands and successfully establish the farm use.

"Approval of the application will allow for the equipment to be stored on the property rather than either transporting the equipment to the site regularly or leaving it in the open," she said.

The application was recommended for approval.

(Minden Hills news compiled by Lisa Gervais)

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Editorial opinion

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OUR MISSION

To tell the story of Haliburton County each week.

To be a source of information and inspiration through stories and ideas.

To report on issues, people and events important to the community.

To reflect and promote pride in the culture, people and landscape of The Highlands.

To encourage Highlanders to believe in themselves, in our community, and in their power to make our place in the world better every day.

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Audited Circulation 8,871 (Jan 1 - June 30, 2017)
Canadian Media Circulation Audit - Canadian Community Newspapers Association

We acknowledge and appreciate financial assistance from the Government of Canada

Future in your hands

By Lisa Gervais

I know some readers' eyes will glaze over at the words 'final report for community-wide affordability and governance structure study.'

Others will pour a strong cup of coffee and seek out the full report.

However, all of us should take interest in what is going on at the municipal government level right now.

Do you pay taxes? Well, this impacts you.

Are you planning to ever renovate or build something? This will affect you.

Does the town snowplow your road? Well, that's in there, too.

Do you use the landfill? How you use it might change.

Go to the library? You are starting to get the picture.

The County hired the Eastern Ontario Regional Network to do an independent, third-party, review of how the County and local governments are doing.

The Coles' notes answer to that question is 'not very good'.

They are facing rising infrastructure costs, inflation, expensive legislative requirements, and limited assessment growth. The bulk of their tax bases are residential, far above other towns and cities in the province that can draw money from industrial and commercial properties.

When they were doing their 2026 budgets, it was indeed a wake-up call that things cannot continue the way they have been.

All five are depleting reserves at an alarming rate and borrowing more and more money to get things done. It is unsustainable.

Long-term financial sustainability requires strategic planning, disciplined financial management, and ongoing investment in infrastructure and services.

Many will focus on the governance aspect of this report. There are four models under consideration.

The status quo: I think we can all agree that is no longer an option.

Amalgamation? Don't like that prospect? Think it's time has come?

There's one where the County takes on some of the big-ticket items and the towns remain, but with more limited responsibilities. The other option is to have the County still take on the big stuff, and four towns become two. The example I'm hearing is the Hwy. 35 towns of Minden Hills and Algonquin Highlands joining forces, with Dysart et al and Highlands East combining. I can hear the arguments over that model starting as we speak.

But, here's the thing. Something is broken and needs fixing and I implore not only councillors, but staff, and the general public, to keep an open mind.

Don't just read the report. Well, it is 178 pages. However, there is a good slide deck on the Aug. 12 County council agenda that is more accessible for those pressed for time.

The consultants will continue to seek feedback. You can still offer an opinion. After all, do you pay taxes? Are you planning to ever renovate or build something? Does the town snowplow your road? Do you use the landfill? Go to the library?

This decision is yours as much as it is that of elected officials for 2026-2030. Don't forget, they're the ones who will vote on the change. It's just another reason why you should get on the voters' list, pay attention to what candidates have to say, and, of course, vote. The future is in your hands.

LETTERS

Strategic plan vote

Dear editor,

I very much appreciate your coverage of the Minden Hills council's vote regarding the proposed five-year strategic plan.

As a Ward 1 constituent, 20-year cottage owner and business owner, I find the 'rejection' decision by the four councillors to be deeply disrespectful to the process (which they would have signed off on), the numerous stakeholders who participated in providing feedback and their constituents.

Did they not review a draft and have a good handle on the timing of the decision well before the plan was tabled for a vote?

Most concerning is that their decision lacks accountability to progress a 'clear vision for the future of Minden Hills', a key goal of the plan. It triggers a complete lack of confidence and trust in my councillors, Ivan Ingram and Shirley Johannessen, to act in the best interest of their constituents. I suspect I'm not alone in this negative reaction.

My strong suggestion is that the current council reconsider adopting the plan rather than waste at least another three months.

Susan Bardwell
Soyers Lake

Need a bigger outhouse

Dear editor,

I have lost track of how many times in the last year Minden Hills has sent out an email to let us know they have initiated a partial tertiary bypass at the wastewater treatment plant due to heavy rainfall or other issues, such as flooding or spring melt.

The most recent email was sent at 2:20 p.m. on Tuesday, Aug. 4, stating that the bypass was initiated at 2:15 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 2. A full 48 hours after it was done in the middle of a long weekend. How many people were enjoying time playing in the Gull River and lower lakes in that time frame? Forty-eight hours late for a heads-up is totally unacceptable, if not incompetent.

The email tells us that it is always important to treat river/stream and lake water before drinking. How about they tell us something we don't already know; such as what other issues during these bypasses, we should be aware of.

I understand Minden Hills contracts the operation of its water/wastewater facilities, but they still own the infrastructure, which they are accountable for. If you want growth in the community, infrastructure must be part of the growth.

Jack Sward
Minden Hills

A question for candidates

Dear editor,

There is a defunct business in Minden Hills, on the corner of Hwy. 35 and Hwy. 118, an old gas station.

This property looks like a safety issue to me. Also, a huge eyesore in the community. It has been empty for more than a decade.

My question to potential council candidates: what do you plan to do with businesses that close like this one? How long can they sit vacant before something is done with them? Or do you plan to just let them be an eyesore and safety issue?

Laura Sheriff
Minden Hills

Nice work

Deal editor,

I do appreciate the 'What the Haliburton' podcast, especially the ones that concern our local political hopefuls. I'll be honest and tell you that I put them on at night with the intent that listening will help me to go to sleep. This is not working so far.

Keep up the good work.

Nancy Cook
Haliburton

Different results

Dear editor,

There are fewer than 10 days till the nomination period closes for the municipal election.

By all accounts, the majority of councillors are seeking to return.

It is a political class that has not revealed a credible plan to grow the tax base enough to ease the burden on existing taxpayers.

Pat Casey leaned heavily on the fact that his family has deep roots in Haliburton when pitching recently why he should be elevated to deputy mayor. His competition, Nancy Wood-Roberts, correctly identified that would be giving him the advantage for the fall election. Strong genealogy is admirable. It is not a financial plan. We need candidates who have a plan to

Editorial opinion

LETTERS

grow revenue, not just spend it. We need candidates who don't cater to the loudest voice in the room. We need candidates who will produce different results rather than continuing to steer us, and I will quote the County's own lingo here into 'significant financial pressure.'

George Smith Jr.
Kennisis Lake

Thanks

Dear editor,

I'd like to give a huge shout out to all nurses, but especially a certain nurse who I'm sure saved my husband Ted's life recently.

After playing 26 holes of golf, Ted was stricken with excruciating stomach pains. He was sent from the Haliburton hospital to Peterborough by ambulance that night, and accompanied by nurses Donna Batten and Christine Gallant.

Upon arrival in Peterborough, they were going to make Ted wait in line, until Donna said something to the effect of, "look, this guy was healthy a few hours ago and now he's in unbelievable pain. If you don't deal with him right now, he's not going to make it."

So, they did and performed a life-saving operation on him shortly afterward. Donna, you're Ted's guardian angel. We can't thank you enough, Donna and Christine, for going above and beyond in taking extra care of your patient, who has since finished the 27th hole.

Shirley Rule
Little Redstone Lake

PHOTO OF THE WEEK

This photo was taken by Eric Brown at a cottage on Salerno Lake.

GUEST COLUMN

Fire ecology ignored

By Peter Schleifenbaum

Misguided forest policy and poor forest management are responsible for the majority of today's intense wildfires. A smaller portion can be attributed to climate change.

The boreal coniferous forest is a fire-dependent ecosystem. Fire is natural and essential, driving ecological change. Tree species' diversity, forest age structure, wildlife populations, and shrub communities have adapted over millennia to this natural fire regime.

Then came modern man - with his supposed wisdom, foresters, and environmentalists.

Modern society fights for every tree. Environmentalists can't bear the thought of animals dying. Foresters became the executors of this urban vision. They embraced the ideal of a 'gentle' ecosystem free of fire, and served the interests of the timber industry, for which every burned tree is a total financial loss.

They have ignored the warnings of forest science, which has been cautioning for more than 50 years about the consequences of a forest policy against fire.

Until the 1920s, the forest functioned in harmony with nature. Wildfires occurred regularly, but attracted little attention. They burned without major consequences because there was virtually no timber industry in remote regions, and the few Indigenous settlements were along large lakes and rivers; roads and modern transportation did not exist.

Then civilization advanced. As forests farther south became increasingly depleted, forestry operations moved north. Roads were pushed deeper into wilderness; sawmills built along roads and rivers; followed by settlements.

Suddenly, people saw burned forests not simply as burned trees, but destroyed economic assets. Towns began to burn. That was unacceptable.

Fire towers spread north. Rangers reported every column of smoke after thunderstorms. Airplanes extinguished every wildfire almost as soon as it started.

Much less forest burned. Trees grew larger and forests denser. The timber industry flourished.

Immense areas were clear-cut, and from the 1940s to 1960s, the forest appeared to be an inexhaustible reserve of continuously renewable timber.

Ecologists began noticing during the 1960s that forests regenerated very differently after fire, as opposed to clear-cutting. A landmark study demonstrated fire is a fundamental ecological process and anyone wishing to manage forests responsibly had to understand fire ecology. The work was dismissed and shelved.

Then, something unexpected happened. Despite steadily increasing investments in wildfire suppression, more forest began to burn. Calls grew louder to take fire ecology seriously.

In 1981, more than one million hectares of Ontario's boreal forest burned—over two per cent of the province's entire forest area. At that rate, Ontario's forests would theoretically burn within 50 years.

A similarly devastating season followed in 1995. Then came 2011, 2021, 2025, and now 2026.

During the late 1980s and 1990s, foresters and ecologists examined Ontario's wildfire stats back to 1917. The results were startling. In the 1920s and 1930s, 0.3 per cent of Ontario's forests burned annually.

Fire suppression began. During the 1940s, the annual burn rate fell to 0.14 per cent. After the Second World War, with aerial firefighting and water bombers, it fell to 0.07 per cent.

The wildfire problem appeared solved. Roads, settlements and forestry expanded. Then, the trend reversed.

Despite more sophisticated fire suppression technology and governments spending larger sums fighting fires, the amount of forest burned began rising again: from 0.15 per cent in the 1960s to 0.55 per cent in the 1990s.

Today, Ontario loses anywhere from 100,000 hectares in an exceptionally good year to one million in a severe year. Nearly two per cent of Ontario's forest can now burn in a single year.

Climate change undoubtedly plays a role, but we're seeing the delayed consequence of decades of misguided forest policy. The mistakes producing today's catastrophic fires were made during the middle of the twentieth century—or earlier.

As recently as 2024, Ontario's MNR estimated annual forest growth at 36 million cubic metres, and annual harvesting at 13 million cubic metres. Environmentalists will celebrate this, seeing more habitat for woodpeckers and insects.

Ontario's 2021 Forest Resource Inventory estimated standing timber volume at approximately 6.4 billion cubic metres. A comparable inventory from 1953 estimated roughly 2.1 billion cubic metres. Ontario's forests today contain substantially more wood per hectare as they did a century ago.

This is the result of more conservative—or, as foresters would say, more sustainable—forest management combined with decades of aggressive wildfire suppression.

Climate change is making forests warmer, drier, and extending the fire season. Roads run deeper into forests. About half of all wildfires in Ontario are caused by people. Even in Ontario's remote far north, up to 30 per cent are human-caused.

When Republican politicians criticize Canada's forest management policies, to a certain degree they are right. It is time we accept responsibility for what we have done.

Peter Schleifenbaum is a retired forester and founder of Haliburton Forest and Wild Life Reserve,

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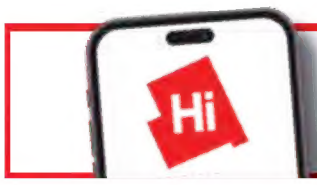
Helping out at the Food Bank

Highlander business



thehighlander.app

ALL ABOUT HI, THE HIGHLANDER'S NEW APP

Why we made it

Three years ago, Meta banned Canadian media companies from Facebook and Instagram. Since then, the quality of information on these platforms has deteriorated. Instead of trustworthy news, there is misinformation, anger, and division. We believe that's bad for Haliburton County.

We created this app to solve that problem: to make a space that is just for our community, without the downsides of social media.

What's on it

You'll find verified, accurate news from our reporters, including breaking news alerts. You will also find information from local not-for-profits, service organizations and municipalities. The feed is in strict chronological order – there's no algorithm to track or manipulate you.

How to get it

The best way is to go to thehighlander.app on your cellphone On your first visit, you'll get a message encouraging you to install the app on your phone. Click this and the app will appear on your home screen so you can easily find it again.

How to use it

You don't need to create an account to use the app. But if you do, there are two benefits. First, you can choose which categories you want to see. Second, you can get notifications on your phone. There's a breaking news category, so anytime there is something urgent and important happening in the county, you can be notified. To create an account, just follow the links on the screen.

Why you can't comment on it

We know you might enjoy commenting on Facebook. But a downside of comments is that misinformation can spread. Without moderation, which is an impossible job for us, the value of the app would be lost. The Highlander's reporters are trained journalists, which means they follow rules so that what they post is as accurate as possible. They are also accountable because they live and work in our community. If they make a mistake, readers tell us – and we fix it. We hope that this approach will create an environment that is useful and pleasant.

How to advertise on Hi

We will be funding the app by offering a limited number of spots to local advertisers who want to reach people in Haliburton County. For more information, contact Aidan (aidan@thehighlander.ca).

How to give us feedback

Email Adam (adam@thehighlander.ca) or stop by our office in Haliburton village.

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Emma Warburton and her two-year-old daughter, Skye, outside her new Minden store Artist Pantry. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

Supplying demand for Highlands artists

By Mike Baker

Emma Warburton has spent much of her adult life learning from distinguished artists in Canada and abroad. Now, she's hoping to use her experience to help connect County-based artists with the materials they need to complete their next project.

The Artist Pantry opened at 12818 Hwy. 35, in the HP Propane plaza in Minden, in early June. Warburton said she hopes it will become a haven for artists who, like her, likely struggle to source high-quality, professional level products locally.

She relocated to the Highlands last year, moving home with her parents in Norland with her now two-year-old daughter, Skye. After years of living in major cities like Toronto, Montreal and London, UK, Warburton found smalltown living a tough transition. Especially since she didn't have access to her own vehicle.

"All winter long, I felt like I was asking my parents to pick up watercolour paper at Michaels and other supplies at Costco. I couldn't find a single thing I needed or wanted anywhere in the County," she said.

With a strong local artistic community, supported by the Haliburton School of Art + Design, Warburton said she saw an opportunity to provide a missing service to the region.

She is starting small – focusing on high-quality paints, brushes, paper, pencils and markers. The store also offers custom stretch canvas to desired dimensions. Partial to acrylics, Warburton said she currently has options from Kroma Artist's Acrylics in Vancouver and Tri-Art, a Kingston-based paint maker.

Whether it's the artist supplies or some of the food options brought in by Warburton's mother, Kara, such as candied salmon, pickles and condiments, oils, vinegars, organic flours and cereals – almost everything is sourced from Canadian suppliers.

"That was a foundational concept – we want to be as Canadian as possible. The idea is to contribute to the Canadian economy consciously, keeping things local, and maybe introducing the community to some cool new products," Warburton said.

She's also taking suggestions from customers – if there's a product you use that is difficult to source, Warburton wants to hear from you.

After graduating from a special arts program at Unionville High School in the city, Warburton studied fine art at Concordia University in Montreal and got her master's in art curating from London Metropolitan University in the UK. She interned at the Art Gallery of Ontario after returning home.

Recently moving into her own place in Minden, Warburton said she's excited to form meaningful connections in her new community. She has a home painting studio for the first time in years, which she said is awakening her creative spirit.

Specializing in pseudo-realism and abstract expressionism, Warburton takes after her grandfather, Tom Hodgson, a member of the influential Painters Eleven group of abstract artists prominent through the mid-to-late 1950s. She plans to pass down tips and tricks of her trade at workshops at the store next year.

"This is where I'm meant to be… I'm meeting new artists every day. We plan to be open year-round. I just really hope to become an essential part of the community," Warburton said.

There store is open six days a week, closed on Wednesdays. For more information, visit www.artistpantry.ca.

It's nicer here

Highlander business

New daycare opens in Gooderham

By Mike Baker

Amber MacDuff at her new Highlands Childcare Group pre-school and daycare in Gooderham. *Photo by Mike Baker.*

As a parent with five kids, Amber MacDuff knows all too well how difficult it can be finding reliable and affordable childcare in Haliburton County.

The Gooderham resident is already working to address the reliability – opening Highlands Childcare Group at the heart of the rural hamlet. The daycare operation has taken over the ground floor of 1023 Gooderham St., the former home of the old Barr General Store. Licensed for up to 20 children, it opened July 13.

MacDuff, who's youngest two are toddlers aged three and four, said she started seriously investigating opening a daycare in January. Before they were even approved, her partner, Justin, got to work retrofitting the space – he installed a new septic bed, replaced the water system, fitted new floors, designed and built an open-concept play area and designated space for a nap room.

She's hired three staff to run the daycare. On programming, MacDuff said the aim is to develop loose itineraries for kids based on their interests and development level.

"We believe every child is a unique individual with their own strengths, interests, abilities, experiences and ways of learning… our program statement reflects the view of children as being competent, capable, curious and rich in potential," MacDuff said. "We recognize children as active participants in their learning and development, who learn best through responsive relationships, exploration, play, inquiry and meaningful experiences."

Kids enrolled each get a lunch, catered daily by Leo's Country Hot Table in Bobcaygeon. There's also constant communication and updates to parents delivered through the Brightwheel app.

Once word started to spread that a daycare was coming to Gooderham, interest went through the roof, MacDuff said. An open house held in May drew dozens of families. This was before the facility even received its accreditation, which came through in early July.

When MacDuff started calling people to share the good news, there was an asterisk attached – because the group had not been onboarded by City of Kawartha Lakes social services, which covers Haliburton County, the childcare fee subsidy some families qualify for wasn't available.

"So, instead of offering spots at $22 per day we're having to charge $70 per day," MacDuff said, noting the daycare has filled 11 of 20 spots, though three are staff member's children on reduced rates. She said the facility is losing about $2,000 per week following an initial $75,000 investment in the building.

"We hear people say all the time how desperate we are for childcare services, but this is the reality, this is why people don't or can't set up their own licensed facility – it's so expensive," MacDuff said. "The tough part now is having to deliver disappointing news to families who were excited, but who I know won't be able to afford this."

In the meantime, MacDuff and Justin are relying on income from an adjoining ice cream shop they opened over the May long weekend. After partnering with Kawartha Dairy, the couple sold more than 700 cones in their first two days.

MacDuff said once the daycare is running at full capacity the business will be profitable. She's hoping the city can do something soon to make things affordable for Gooderham families.

Kawartha Lakes' children services department told *The Highlander* new daycares must be enrolled in the Canada-wide early learning and childcare (CWELCC) system with the city to access funding, including the childcare subsidy and other reduced fees. All money is provided by the federal and provincial governments. Staff said all available spaces for new operators had been allocated for 2026.

"The city is tracking requests from organizations interested in being informed of any expansion opportunities in 2027," the city said, without providing firmer timelines.

As of June 30, 2026 there were 1,451 children on the centralized childcare waitlist across the broader service area, which includes the County of Haliburton and City of Kawartha Lakes, with an estimated wait time of 3.2 years. Of those, 244 are located in Haliburton County, with an estimated wait time of 2.9 years.

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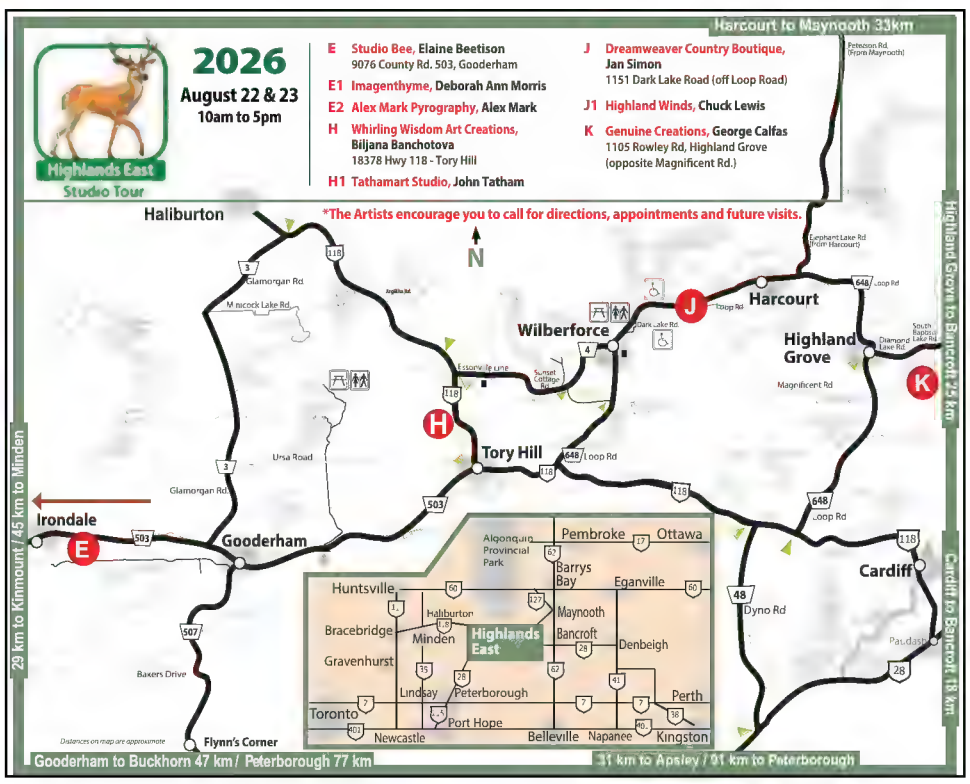

Highlander people

Len Salvatori spent his life living in the Highlands. He died Aug. 2 at the age of 96. *File.*

Salvatori a great Haliburton story

By Mike Baker

Through much of the latter half of the 20th century there were few people who had as big an impact on life in Haliburton County, or were as loved and respected locally, as Len Salvatori. The family patriarch died Aug. 2 aged 96.

Over the past week, those who knew him have shared heartfelt tributes and touching stories capturing his many contributions to the community.

Volunteerism was at the heart of everything he did, his family said. He served 41 years with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association, was a trustee on the Haliburton County Board of Education for 35 years, spent more than 20 years assisting the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association, where he helped at the fish hatchery, and was a board member with Haliburton Highlands Health Services for nine years.

"His life is one of the greatest stories in Haliburton," said Gary Brohman, who was friends with Salvatori for 54 years.

The two connected in 1972, shortly after Brohman took a teaching job in the County. It was normal then for teachers to form relationships with board officials. While things were kept largely professional at first, they hit it off after Brohman started volunteering in minor hockey.

From that point, Brohman, then 27, said Salvatori was like a surrogate father to him.

"As a young man with two kids moving to a new area, I had a lot of questions. Whether it was asking him if I needed new tires, whether or not I should buy a boat, or if my roof needed replacing, Len always had the answer," Brohman said. A memory wall on the Haliburton Community Funeral Home website is littered with similar testimonials. Mike Polonsky said Salvatori, his new neighbour, was one of the first people he met after buying a cottage. He was hosting people on his first night but his toilet wasn't hooked up.

"I asked to use his phone to call a plumber. He asked what was wrong, so I told him. He grabbed his toolbox, saying 'what do you need a plumber for?'" Polonsky said.

Salvatori lived his entire life in Haliburton County – he was born in Dysart on Nov. 6, 1929. He spent 43 years married to Betty Rae Bush, who died in 2001. Together, they have three children – Andy, Lisa and Laurie.

He spent 44 years working at Curry Motors, starting as a general labourer completing oil changes before becoming autobody shop manager and, later, co-owner.

In recognition of his community service, Salvatori was named Highlander of the Year in 1978 and Haliburton Citizen of the year in 1993. In 2017, the Haliburton Alternate Education was renamed in his honour and, in 2022, Salvatori was an inaugural inductee into the Haliburton Highlands Sports Hall of Fame.

Dysart et al mayor Walt McKechnie met Salvatori in the early 1970s. Through all the years he knew Len, McKechnie called him an "effective man for the community."

The two socialized on occasion, with golf a shared love. McKechnie said they would play at the Pinestone regularly. According to local records, Salvatori shot a hole-in-one on the course in 2006.

Some of McKechnie's best memories came on the 18th hole, he said.

"It's a long drive to the hole and there's a big pond – if you don't drive it far enough, there's a real chance you lose your ball to the water on the next shot," McKechnie noted. "Len would always use one of his good balls for the drive, then put it in his pocket for his second shot and take out a scuffed-up ball he'd call his water ball.

"We used to tease him about that all the time, but he was adamant he didn't want to risk losing his good ball," the mayor added.

A celebration of life was held in Haliburton Aug. 11. The family asks that donations in Salvatori's name be directed to the HHOA fish hatchery or HHHS' Highland Wood long-term care home.

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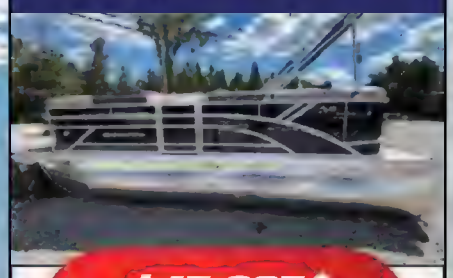

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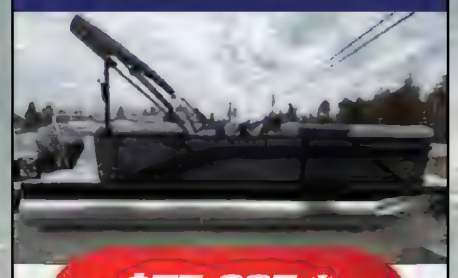

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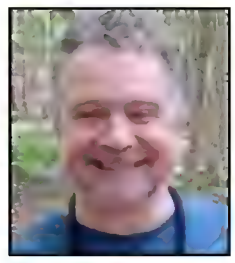
Why some of the weeds are staying

If you went to visit one of my new projects this summer, you might have trouble telling the plants from the "weeds".

A shaded septic bed that was once lawn is now sedges, wood sorrel and plantains. It's a flat swath of green but of these, only the sedges were intentional.

The question becomes: is this a problem?



By Simon Payn

What we call "grass" here

The Highlands lawn is a sorry thing. Up here, with our shade and our soil, we don't grow great lawns. We grow green stuff, but it isn't often grass.

I'm stewarding a large lawn conversion project I installed in the spring. I removed about 2,500 sq ft of "lawn" and planted it with a matrix of four types of sedges, then shade-tolerating perennials and shrubs.

When you remove a lawn, things will grow back. Not so much grass, but plantains, large-leaf asters and all sorts of plants that were happily living in your yard and made it look like you had a lawn…of sorts.

I mulched about half of this project to help stop weeds growing. There are a few weeds there, but not many. I am removing most of the weeds from this part of the project because it's closer to the cottage and I want it to look nice.

> Every time you pull a weed, you disturb the ground and create the conditions for more weeds to grow.

The revenge of the plantains

I didn't mulch the other half because it's on top of a septic bed – I didn't want to harm the functioning of the bed by smothering it and cutting off the air the bed needs. So that's the half that has weeds growing on it, among the Pennsylvania sedge, early meadow rue, wild columbine and Canada violets that I actually planted.

Most of what is growing back are plantains. They're the non-native type, but they've been in Canada so long – it's said they were one of the earliest plants to arrive in North America – that they are well and truly naturalized here.

Plantain seeds survive for decades in the soil. So when I disturbed the ground to create a nice clean slate for my planting, I gave the seeds a chance to germinate. And they did! With less competition from grass and moss, they went to the races.

The downside of weeding

So I was left with a question: do I weed all the weeds, just let them grow…or what?

Plantains specialize in growing on disturbed, compacted ground and they help open it up. I think they will help my sedges and other plants grow. They're also very low growing and cover the ground, stopping other weed seeds from germinating.

But they also produce lots of seeds of their own, which will create more plants in the future.

Removing them isn't free, however. One thing I learned from the experts is that every time you pull a weed, you create the conditions for more weeds to grow. You're disturbing the ground again, bringing more seeds to the surface with every plantain you pull.

What I'm doing

The question remains open. Part of this is being prepared to change your mind.

I'm weeding troublesome plants with deep roots, such as dandelions that could harm the septic. And I'm only weeding some of the plantains – the big ones with weird flowers that will turn into 20,000 seeds.

And the wood sorrel on the septic bed? I'm leaving that. I didn't plant it but it's pretty, it's covering the ground and it's native to North America.

I could be wrong about all this. If you see me on 21 with a trailer full of plantains, you'll know.

Simon Payn owns Grounded, which designs, installs and cares for ecological landscapes and shorelines in Haliburton County. Visit groundedgardens.ca.

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grounded
GARDENING FOR LIFE

The Welkin hits the stage

Ctrl-ART-Del's production of *The Welkin*, a courtroom play written by Lucy Kirkwood, took to the stage at the Haliburton Highlands Museum for three nights of high-stakes drama last week. The amateur production was performed in front of a packed house on Aug. 6, 7 and 8. Ctrl-ART-Del has another production scheduled later this month with *Outside*, by Paul Dunn, set to take the stage at the Highland Hills United Church on Aug. 18 and 20.

Top: William Coombes, played by Greg Landry, reacts on stage. Middle: Katy Luke, played by Ruby Mansfield, washes some clothing. Bottom: Emma Jenkins, played by Olivia Humphries, speaks to a castmate. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

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Spar Lake $549,000
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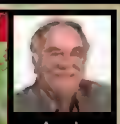
- Sandy Entry & Deep Water Off Dock
- Motor-Restricted Lake, Peace & Quiet!



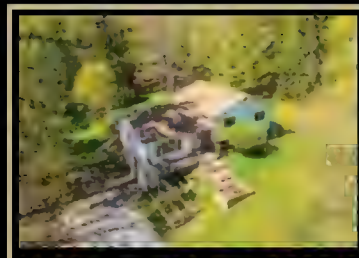
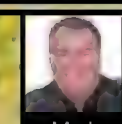
OPEN HOUSE

Andy Campbell* (705) 854-0292

Minden Home $879,000
- Gorgeous 2200sqft Viceroy, Built in 2010
- 3 Beds/3 Baths, Finished Lower Level
- OPEN HOUSE: Sun, Aug 16 @ 11am-1pm

Gloria Carnochan* & Breann Budel* (705) 754-1932

West Guilford Gem $599,500
- Renovated 3-bed home, Open-concept
- Detch'd heated garage + fenced kennel
- Walk to beach, trails & local shops

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Haliburton Home $525,000
- 3bd/2.5ba, 1,950SF Multi-Level Home
- Huge Treed Yard, Garage, Laundry
- Walk to Head Lake, Parks & Shops

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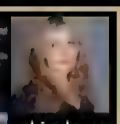
- Beautiful, immaculate home
- 3 Bedrooms, 2 four piece baths
- Impressive landscaping/gardens



Lindsay Elder* (705) 457-5878

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NEW LISTING

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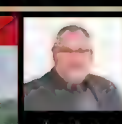
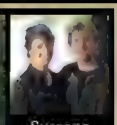
Boshkung Lake $839,000
- 255' Frontage on 3-Lake Chain
- 3,400 SqFt, 4 Bed + Den, 3.5 Baths
- Garage, Dock, Decks & Lake Views



NEW LISTING

Andrew Hodgson** (705) 854-0130

Head Lake Condo $799,000
- 2 Beds / 2 Baths, Wraparound Balcony
- Private Dock, 5-Lake Chain Access
- Panoramic Head Lake Views



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- Beautifully renovated top to bottom
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- Perfect for active cottagers!

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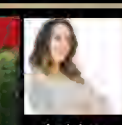
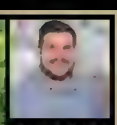
- 5 Bedrooms, Heated Double Garage
- 0.75 Acres, Generac, Rail Trail
- OPEN HOUSE: Sun, Aug 16 @ 11am-1pm



NEW LISTING

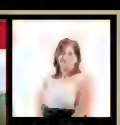
Ashley McKeigue* (705) 854-1833

Minden Home $599,999
- 3-Bed Home Just 5 Mins to Minden
- Private Spring-Fed Pond & Dock
- 3.4 Acres, Bunkie, Trails & Gazebo



Brandon Nimigon*** (705) 457-8631

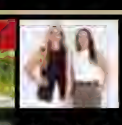
Minden Home $550,000
- 5 Beds/3 Baths, 2,600SqFt, 1.5 Acres
- Walkout to a Large, Private Backyard
- 5-Lake Chain Public Boat Launch Nearby



NEW LISTING

Karen Nimigon** (705) 457-6505

Minden Acreage $199,000
- 19 Acres with Driveway & Hydro
- Private Setting with Creek & Trees
- Minutes to Haliburton Amenities



NEW PRICE

Kelly Kay* (705) 457-6841 Kirsten Rae* (705) 854-1454

McKenzie Lake $499,900
- Adorable Three Bedroom Cottage
- Brand New Kitchen & New Flooring
- Cherished Family Retreat

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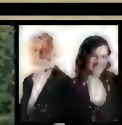
In-Town Minden Home $399,900
- Cozy 3 Bed, 2 Bath Downtown Home
- Walking distance to all town amenities
- Call me to book a showing today!



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Gull River $899,900
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- Energy efficiency rating of 82
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Highlander events

Kathy Marlene Bailey will show people how "easy peasy" painting can be. *Photo submitted.*

Connecting community through all-ages event

By Mike Baker

Since discovering the idea of artist trading cards at an out-of-town crafts event three years ago, Chris Lynd has adopted the concept as her own, becoming a prolific maker and advocate for the personalized keepsakes.

A different phenomenon to the sports trading card industry, which can be extremely lucrative, Lynd said the artist version is all about fostering and creating connection. She'll send them to longtime friends, new acquaintances met on vacation, and people she encounters around the Highlands.

"The cards are very small, around two-and-a-half inches by three-and-a-half inches, and it's just some sort of artistic impression and a message on there," Lynd said. "You don't have to be a great artist to do this – it's something anyone can do. You can use stamps, watercolours, do a nice drawing with a sharpie, or even just write out a heartfelt message."

Once complete, people are encouraged to either mail cards out or pack them up and take them on the road to different trade shows. Lynd said she's been to several over the past couple years.

"They're really popular – artists come from all over to showcase their work. It's an incredible community, because the only rule, really, is that no money is exchanged. People have to trade with another person from somewhere else in the world, but the plus to that is they get to keep whatever they've traded for as part of their collection," she said.

Lynd estimates she's sent out around 50 cards since 2023, though she has more in her personal set. As a collage embroiderer, she's creative and able to use different techniques to form unique designs.

Locals will have the chance to learn about her processes this week, with Lynd one of five artists partnering with Aging Together as Community (ATAC) and The Arts Council – Haliburton Highlands at a 'Creative Connections' interactive arts workshop, being held at the West Guilford Recreation Centre Aug. 14. It's ATAC's second event of its 2026/27 fiscal year, confirmed lead Bonnie Roe. She said the organization got grant money through the province to pay for programming, which, in the past, has typically been geared towards seniors.

"What we're hearing is people want more than just educational activities. There have been requests for more inspirational and motivational programs – this one is heavily centred on the arts and introduces people to makers from various unique mediums," Roe said.

There are five workshops, with guests getting to choose one morning and one afternoon session. Appearing alongside Lynd are painters Harvey Walker and Kathy Marlene Bailey, stage performer Ella Leis, and illustrator, leather worker and muralist Noelia Marziali.

"We wanted to offer a variety of different workshops because art isn't just painting. There are so many aspects – the art of Zentangle, which Noelia will be featuring, is a whole other thing that was totally new to me. So, it's a good chance for people to learn something new."

Free to attend, Roe said the event is full. She expects there to be a strong presence of younger people, following the trend seen at recent ATAC events. At a musical offering in the spring, there were 22 young adults in attendance.

"We're finally shedding that tag of being a group for older people – we're trying to find new ways of connecting with younger people. We see opportunities for different generations coming together and experiencing what aging is really all about," Roe said.

There are two more events to come this funding cycle – one planned for Haliburton in October and another in Minden in March. Roe said ATAC is also hosting its first annual general meeting next spring – a requirement after the organization secured non-profit status last August.

Regularly connecting with 700 people through a mailed newsletter, Roe said ATAC is planning to launch memberships next year.

Ronen Ifraimov in front of the new farmers market. *Photo by Lisa Gervais.*

Summer farmers market on Twelve Mile

By Lisa Gervais

Deluxe Waterfront Resort on Twelve Like Lake in Minden Hills has added a farmers market to its summer offerings.

Resort owner, Ronen Ifraimov, who also owns Toronto-based Deluxe Produce, said the market has been operating at the former Wedgewood Marina between Twelve and Mountain lakes on summer weekends.

Ifraimov said he has access to the Ontario Food Terminal in South Etobicoke and greenhouses in Leamington so it made sense to truck fresh produce north once a week. He added he's been food shopping in the County and sees a need.

"I've been seeing the prices that the supermarkets are charging in Haliburton and in Minden. I thought it was quite ridiculous. So, I decided to do a little farmers market to save money for the community."

He has built a timber structure on the property to accommodate the new market.

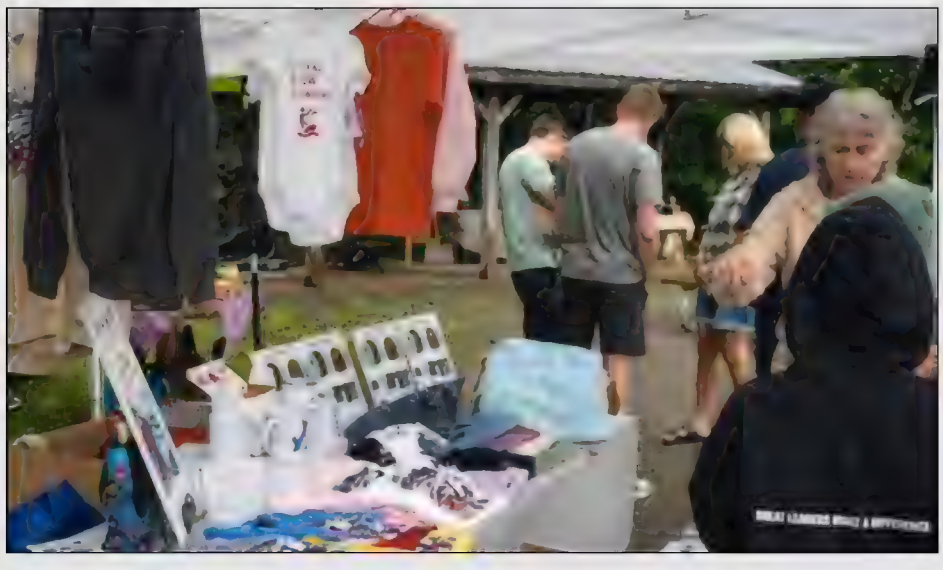
Ifraimov said it isn't about him making money.

"It's just to have people come to the property and enjoy themselves on a beautiful day."

He's been driving up with produce all summer.

"On Thursday night, I pick up from the Ontario Food Terminal. I have a lot of good farmers that bring produce especially for me. We try to bring as much local as we can, and there is some that isn't local, but that's because they're just not in season in Canada."

Ifraimov said the market remains open Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Braving the elements

The Halls & Hawk Lakes Property Owners Association (HHLPOA) hosted a lakeside market on Saturday (Aug. 8) at Elvin Johnson Park, where friends and neighbours endured the wet weather to showcase their custom creations and artwork. Musical guest Urban River performed during the event while Kayla Gillooly's Lemon Bar was on hand, serving up some refreshing lemonade.

Left: People browse items during the HHLPOA lakeside market. Middle: An attendee chats with Kayla Gillooly of Lemon Bar. Right: Urban River performs a set during the rainy morning at Elvin Johnson Park. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Highlander outdoors

Hello, Beaver Creek

The Haliburton Highlands Land Trust unveiled the new name of its recently acquired parcel of land on Plantation Road, just outside of Minden, on Saturday (Aug 8). The 200-acre property will now be known as the Beaver Creek Wildlands Reserve. The land trust held a naming contest at the start of summer with Catharine Hoare submitting the winning title. Sheila Ziman, a founding member of the group, was also honoured. The planned boardwalk in the reserve will be named in her honour.

Above: Sheila Ziman reacts after HHLT's executive director Dave Newnham announced the naming of the boardwalk as a tribute to one of the founding members of the group. Right: Catharine Hoare was on hand to accept a prize after winning the Beaver Creek Wildlands Reserve naming contest. *Photos by Adam Frisk.*

Great Big Sea alumni to sink or swim

By Mike Baker

Sean McCann of Great Big Sea fame is bringing his solo 'Sink of Swim' tour to Haliburton Sept. 4. *Photo submitted.*

Sean McCann made memories all over the world during his two decades touring with iconic Canadian folk band Great Big Sea, but the East Coast musician said he's looking forward to making some new ones in Haliburton next month.

The folk-rock legend, who performed vocals, bodhran, guitar and tin whistle as a founding member of Great Big Sea from 1993 to 2013, is bringing his 'Sink or Swim' solo tour to Haliburton United Church Sept. 4.

It will be a first time performing in the Highlands for McCann, who was "the shantyman" of Great Big Sea. He specializes in providing high-energy vocals with a traditional Maritime twang.

"There aren't many places left in Canada that I haven't played, so I'm stoked to finally get up there," McCann said during an Aug. 7 interview.

While he's used to playing in bigger cities and venues, McCann was convinced to bring his show to the Highlands during a visit earlier this year, when he saw our small cottage country community "come alive" for the season.

He promised an intimate musical experience for fans, pulling original music from his latest album, *Sink or Swim*, other original works and favourites from Great Big Sea's greatest hits.

"A lot of the themes of the songs, especially in *Sink or Swim*, are about the way our society has become divided in recent years. I think a lot of it has to do with technology and people not fully recovering, socially, from the pandemic," McCann said. "One thing that has worked for me, helped to bring joy to people, is live music.

"It used to be a very normal thing to do, to put your phone down, get off Facebook and drive down to your local community hall or church to sit next to strangers and sing songs… we're going to try and bring it back. It's a real form of rebellion," he added.

It's been 12 years since McCann quit the band – something he still refers to as the hardest decision of his life. Two decades on the road had taken a toll, with McCann turning to alcohol and drugs to sustain his rockstar lifestyle. He prioritized his long-term health by stepping away from music completely.

When he eventually returned, McCann said he wanted to use his platform to spread positivity.

"No matter how bad something looks, the future is unwritten. We have the opportunity to change – I think that's an important message today," McCann said. "I try to instill a little hope in all my songs. We have the power to make the world what we want."

Asked if he thought there would be a Great Big Sea reunion, McCann said there have been conversations with bandmates Alan Doyle and Bob Hallett.

"At the end of the pandemic, I went to them and asked them to do a show, and they said it's not a bad idea, it just hasn't happened yet," McCann said. "I still love the band… I hope someday there will be a reunion."

Reflecting on standout memories from his career, McCann recalled how, in 2000, he and his Great Big Sea bandmates went out in Toronto following that year's Juno Awards ceremony. They ended up in a small club in the downtown where AC/DC played an impromptu set.

"Nobody knew they were there. They just walked in, went up on stage, plugged in their guitars and started with *Dirty Deeds*. They just floored the place," McCann said. "There were other acts there and nobody cared – AC/DC just had everyone fanning out."

He's hoping to create a similarly raucous atmosphere in Haliburton. Tickets are available online at seanmccannsings.com/concerts.

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CONFIDENTIAL PAPER SHREDDING EVENT: SCOTCH LINE LANDFILL, AUGUST 22 FROM 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Protect your personal information, reduce clutter, and safely dispose of old documents such as bank statements, tax records, bills, and other sensitive paperwork.

We also encourage residents to bring a non-perishable food or toiletry donation to support Minden Community Food Centre and help neighbours in need.

COUNCIL MEETINGS VIRTUAL & IN-PERSON

Council and Closed Session meetings are currently being conducted in-person (Council Chambers, 7 Milne St., Minden) and with electronic participation. The scheduled upcoming meetings are:

- August 13 – Regular Council Meeting
- September 10 – Regular Council Meeting

Members of the Public are invited to observe Council proceedings by attending in-person or via the live-stream link.

MINDEN HILLS CULTURAL CENTRE

- *As the Shoreline Disappears* by glass artist Brad Copping, will be on display in the Agnes Jamieson Gallery until September 19.
- The 3rd annual *Voice of Pride* exhibit, in partnership with Pride in the Highlands and Walling Studios, opens on August 11. The exhibit will be on display until August 29. Join us for the Artist Reception on August 19 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.
- Join us for our second Community Heritage Series speaker event this summer. Hands at the Loom: Weaving Heritage in Minden by Andrea Coysh on Thursday, August 13 at 5:00 PM.
- *Miijim: Traditional Foods of the Anishinaabeg*, on loan from MUSE: Lake of the Woods Museum in Kenora will be on display at the Cultural Centre until August 29.
- The Minden Hills Museum and Heritage Village, and Nature's Place is open Tuesday to Saturday from 10 am - 4 pm for tours and self-guided activities! Stop by for drop-in activities for children each day from 11 am – 12 pm. This week: Tues – hand puppet craft, Wed – scrapbooking, Thurs – master gardeners' program, Fri – bracelet making, Sat – portable memories showcase. All are welcome. Admission by donation.

For information on all the programs and exhibits offered at the Minden Hills Cultural Centre: culturalcentre@mindenhills.ca or call 705-286-3763.

DROP-IN PROGRAM OF THE DAY

From 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m. Monday to Thursday next week, sign your youth up for our drop-in of the day program occurring at the SG Nesbitt Memorial Arena. Monday will be sport based, Tuesdays are craft days, Wednesday is kitchen based and Thursdays are more open play time.

VOTERS: WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE UPCOMING ELECTION?

The next municipal election is happening this October! Visit the Election Information Booth at RotaryFest on Sunday, August 16th to learn more about voter registration, three ways to vote, and important election dates.

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Home of Haliburton Grassroots

MVPs!

Liam MacLennan
11-13 Black

Dean DaLanca
10-11 Black

Frances Gilmour
10-13 Pink

Isla Dacey
4-6 Light Blue

Mckinley Macduff
4-6 White

Rhys Foster
7-9 Green

Santiago Renel
11-13 Red

Sebastian Dart
10-11 Light Blue

Top: Players in tight during soccer action last week. Bottom: A header finds the back of the net. *Submitted.*

Play speeding up as season progresses

Under clear skies and with warm weather, our young athletes put their hard-earned skills on full display after a solid month of training. Now comfortable with team routines and clear end-of-season goals, players are channelling their focus into sharpening their athleticism and tactical understanding. Coaches are delivering more advanced instruction, which the kids are eagerly translating into action on the field. Parents can actively see the play speeding up as player confidence continues to surge. Without a doubt, the upcoming final weeks promise to deliver our most exciting soccer of the summer. *Submitted.*

Show your community spirit!
Place your ad on this page.
Help make the kids smile.
aidan@thehighlander.ca

Eight friends modeled Kim McBrien Evans' (third left) wares for her new book *The Knitters Sweater Fitting Bible. Photo courtesy of Sarah Bell.*

Author spins new yarn about knitting

By Mike Baker

After two years of pouring her heart, soul and mind into her soon-to-be-released book, *The Knitter's Sweater Fitting Bible*, local yarn dyer and knitwear designer Kim McBrien Evans said the guide is filled with tips and tricks that might help fellow makers out of a bind.

The publication releases on most online formats and at Indigo Dragonfly Aug. 25. It's been a two-year project for McBrien Evans, who called it a technical guide designed to walk people through challenging aspects of a sweater's design.

"This is about trying to help knitters learn specifically about how sweaters work and what they can do to change the design to fit their bodies properly," she said.

Knitting since she was four, McBrien Evans said she's largely self-taught. Many of the designs featured are her own, though there are others from eight contributors from across the country. They gathered in the County together earlier this summer to stage pictures for the book, captured by local photographer Sarah Bell.

Flicking through the finished product, McBrien Evans said it provides plenty of ideas for people trying to figure out what they want on their sweater – it doesn't have to be just a single colour, the author noted.

Formulas printed in the book can also be adjusted, ensuring a perfect fit for the finished product.

"There are lots of designs, but the patterns and suggestions in the book are not set in stone either. They're templates made to measure, so people can use any yarn they want and plug in all their body measurements, and the results will be a pattern that fits you as you are," she said.

Shunning fashion industry standards, McBrien Evans said she rejects ideas such as avoiding horizontal striping for larger people.

"In knitting, I believe there are no rules at all. I look for things that we've been told our whole lives we shouldn't wear and try to find ways to make them work," she said. While she doesn't sell her finished sweaters, the hobby has brightened up her closet.

She said her guide would be perfect for newcomers just getting into knitting.

"It is everything you've ever wanted to know about making sweaters – from taking good measurements, to understanding why patterns don't fit, fixing them so they do fit, and finding ways to put your own creative stamp on your work," she said.

An early book launch event is being held at Haliburton Highlands Brewing in Carnarvon on Saturday (Aug. 16) from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be a book signing, pop-up trunk show, a yarn pinata and cake.

CONGRATULATIONS!

The lucky winner of the recent Outdoor Adventure Raffle fundraiser in support of the Haliburton Highlands Outdoors Association was **Sandra Morel** pictured here with HHOA president Dan Smith. The HHOA thanks everyone who participated in this fundraiser that saw the winner get $5000.00 worth of outdoors related merchandise. A special thank you goes to **Algonquin Outfitters, Haliburton Home Hardware, Highland Fabrication** and **Outdoors Plus** who provided prize items for this raffle.

Compassionate Hearts
Community Cancer Support Circle

COMMUNITY CANCER SUPPORT CIRCLE

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3RD THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Brooksong Retreat & Cancer Support Centre
1150 Garden Gate Drive, Haliburton

Participation is free of cost

Please register by calling or emailing:

Brooksong Retreat & Cancer Support Centre
(705) 754-2966 • barb@brooksong.ca

OR

Haliburton Highlands Health Services
(705) 457-2941 • hhhshospice@hhhs.ca

Brooksong RETREAT & CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE

HHH HALIBURTON HIGHLANDS HEALTH SERVICES

What's on

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION EVENTS

Branch 129 Haliburton

Mondays: Office open 9 a.m. to noon, clubroom closed.
Tuesdays: Cadets after school starts at 5 p.m., meeting starts at 6 p.m. Games and cards night starting at 6:30 p.m. All are welcome. Darts league 7 p.m. start.
Wednesdays: Office and clubroom closed
Thursdays: General meeting third Thursday of the month, March to December; ladies auxiliary meeting last Thursday of the month, February to November.
Fridays: Meat draw, five draws, five prize each draw, first draw at 4:30 p.m., last draw at 6:30 p.m., tickets are $2 per draw; fun darts at 4:30 p.m. onwards; 50/50 draw at 5 p.m., tickets are $1 and available in the clubroom.
Saturdays: Open only for special events Clubroom hours: Monday closed; Tuesday 5-9 p.m.; Wednesday closed; Thursday 3-6 p.m., Friday 3-7 p.m., Saturday/Sunday closed.

Mabel D. Brannigan Branch 636 Minden

Lunch 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. **Monday to Friday** with full menu and daily special including liver lovers' **Tuesday**.
Friday Fish & Chips & Wings dinner 4-7 p.m.
Saturday all day breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with meat draws at 9:30 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541
Weekly activities:
Karaoke: every other **Friday**
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week.
Monday: Euchre 1-3 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 10 a.m. to noon, Darts 7-9 p.m. and euchre 7-9 p.m.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Monday: open 7 to 10 p.m. Darts Aug. 17, 24 and 31 at 7 p.m.; Mexican train dominos at 7 p.m.
Tuesday: closed, special events only. Exercise club Aug. 18 at 1 p.m.
Wednesday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Darts Aug. 19 and 26 at 2 p.m.; Ladies auxiliary quick supper from 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Thursday: open 2 to 10 p.m. Horseshoes Aug. 13, 20 and 27 at 7 p.m.; HHHS social recreation Aug. 13 and 27 at 10 a.m.; Painting class with Luann Aug. 20.
Friday: open 2 to 11 p.m. Wings and jam session Aug. 14 and 28 from 5 to 8 p.m.; Fish and chips Aug. 21; Seniors lunch Aug. 28 from noon to 1 p.m.
Saturday: open 2 to 9 p.m. Meat draw Aug. 15, 22 and 29 at 3 p.m.; karaoke Aug. 22 at 8 p.m.; Dorothy Knight Golf Tournament Aug. 29 at Lakeside Golf Course.
Sunday: closed, special events only.

Branch 566 Cardiff

Hours: Sunday and Monday 3 to 6 p.m. and **Thursday** 3 to 9 p.m.
Events: Breakfast on the first **Sunday** of each month from 9 to 11 a.m.; euchre on the second **Sunday** of each month at 12:30 p.m.
Shuffleboard every **Thursday** from 7 to 9 p.m.
Music and jam session ever second **Saturday** of the month from 1 to 4 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Branch 441 Kinmount

Mondays: Bid euchre at 1 p.m.
Tuesdays: Closed
Wednesdays: Mixed darts at 7:30 p.m.
Thursdays: Closed
Fridays: Clubroom opens at 4 p.m. Bingo, doors open at 5 p.m. with play beginning at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials starting at 5 p.m.
Saturdays: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw at 5:30 p.m.

EVENTS

Aug. 13, 7:30-9 p.m. Pop Goes the Opera by Highlands Opera Studio at St. George's Anglican Church in Haliburton. Tickets are $32.50 and available at www.highlandsoperastudio.com.

Aug. 13, 5-6:30 p.m. The Minden Hills Cultural Centre welcomes Andrea Coysh for a special presentation 'hands at the loom: weaving heritage in Minden'. She will present a live barn loom demonstration and discuss local weaving traditions and sustainable textile practices. All are welcome.

Aug. 14, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Looking for something creative to do? Aging Together as Community and the Arts Council - Haliburton Highlands are hosting an interactive art workshop at the West Guilford Recreation Centre. Guest speaker is Chris Lynd, on the value of art in building healthy, connected communities. Other featured artists include Noelia Marziali, Harvey Walker, Ella Leis and Kathy Marlene Bailey. Book your spot by Aug. 7 by contacting 705-717-5334 or agingtogetherhc@gmail.com.

Aug. 15, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Haliburton Powerboat Races return to Head Lake, featuring five local racers. Attendance is free, with donations collected on behalf of Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation. Races also running all day Sunday (Aug. 16).

Aug. 15, 1-4 p.m. 'Partners in conservation' forest health workshop at Barnum Creek Nature Reserve. Hosted by the Haliburton Highlands Land Trust, with a discussion led by Elliott Groen on sustainable forestry. Register at haliburtonlandtrust.ca.

Aug. 15, 6-9 p.m. Minden Rotaryfest along Bobcaygeon Road and downtown in Minden village. Enjoy live music, food and beverages on the municipal parking lot at the corner of Prince and Milne streets. Also running Sunday (Aug. 16).

Aug. 17, 11 a.m. Pride in the Highlands is holding a flag-raising ceremony at Minden Hills township offices, kicking off Pride Week in Haliburton County. There will also be observances at the Algonquin Highlands municipal office at 1123 North Shore Rd. at 1 p.m. and in Haliburton at A.J. LaRue Arena at 4 p.m.

Aug. 18, 10 a.m. Free guided tour of the Haliburton Sculpture Forest. Meet at the kiosk in the Haliburton School of Art + Design parking lot at 297 College Dr. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Tours are held every Tuesday through July and August rain or shine and can take up to two hours. By donation.

Aug. 19, 10:30-11:30 a.m. Stop by the Minden Hills Cultural Centre for a presentation by Jacob Wyonch, a Trent University PhD candidate, on his findings following a four year study of microplastics in Haliburton lakes. Open to all. Hosted by Environment Haliburton and U-Links.

Aug. 26, noon to 2 p.m. Haliburton Lions Stories in the Park fun fair at Head Lake Park. Featuring music by Gord Kidd, childrens' games, painting area and a book reading by children's author Carolyn Huizinga Mills. All children will receive a free book.

Aug. 27, 1 p.m. The Minden branch of the Haliburton County Public Library is holding an afternoon screening of *Toy Story 5* in the Welch Room. Light refreshments will be provided.

Have a non-profit event you want advertised? email mike@thehighlander.ca.

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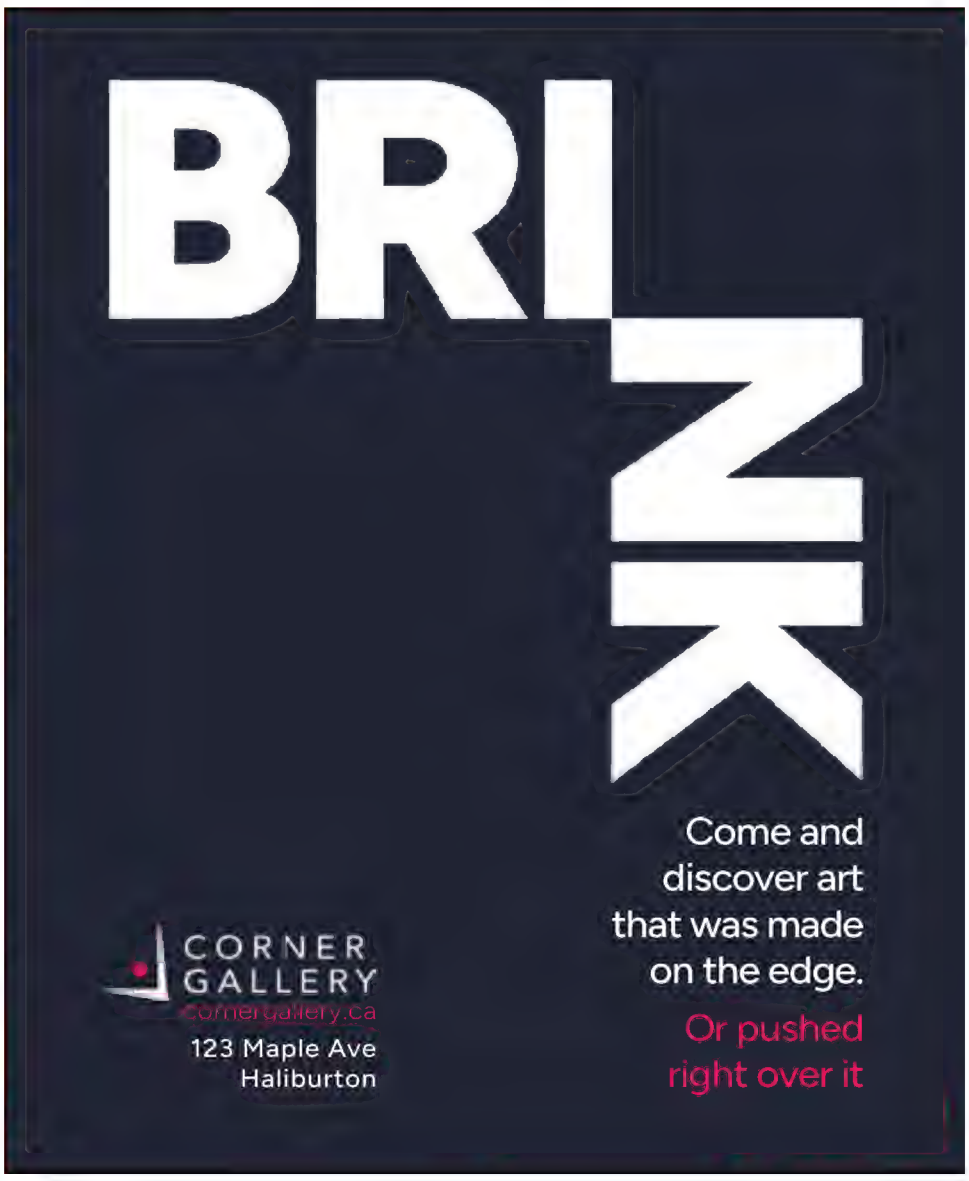

Highlander classifieds

HELP WANTED

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR (PERMANENT PART-TIME)

Highland Hills United Church in Minden is looking for a warm and enthusiastic Church Administrator who is comfortable with technology and works well with others who will assist the minister in the daily life of the Charge and ensure office routines and responsibilities are met. This is a permanent position. At Highland Hills United Church, we are followers of Jesus, compassionate about our community and world conscious. The church recently became an Affirming ministry, which means that all people are welcome and affirmed, including those who identify as 2SLGBTQIA+.

Experience with Microsoft Office is essential. Basic bookkeeping skills are preferred, otherwise must be willing to learn. Membership in the United Church is not required. 20 hours per week at a rate of $20 per hour, with benefits. Flexible work hours, with an openness to a hybrid model of on-site and remote work. Please send cover letter and resume by email to **highlandhillspc2020@gmail.com**. Applications will be received until August 27. Full job description is available on our website at highlandhillspc.ca

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This is not a solicitation Lebolaw represents the business(es) listed above and cannot represent or provide legal advice to potential purchasers. Interested parties are requested to make contact through a licensed real estate agent or lawyer. Brokers protected

HELP WANTED

MUNICIPALITY OF HIGHLANDS EAST — Yours to Explore — highlandseast.ca

The Municipality of Highlands East is currently seeking candidates for the vacant position of:

Full-Time, Planning Technician
Administration/Planning Department
Current Rate of Pay per CUPE Local 4416 Collective Agreement: $32.33/hr

Hours of Work: 35 hours/week, Monday to Friday. Overtime may occasionally be required.

A copy of the detailed job posting, and description are available upon request or on the Highlands East website at www.highlandseast.ca

If you are interested in joining our dedicated team of municipal professionals, applications **clearly marked "Application – Full-Time, Planning Technician"** may be submitted on or before 4:00 p.m., Wednesday, August 26th, 2026, via email, in person or mail. Interested applicants may submit their resume, including references, in confidence to:

Tracy Vader, HR/Payroll Coordinator
Municipality of Highlands East
P.O. Box 295, 2249 Loop Road
Wilberforce, ON K0L 3C0
E-Mail: humanresources@highlandseast.ca

We thank all applicants for their interest but only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The Municipality of Highlands East is an equal opportunity employer. Applicants requiring accommodation are asked to contact the HR/Payroll Coordinator.

In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the information gathered will be used solely for candidate selection purposes only. Questions about this collection should be directed to Municipal Clerk, Robyn Rogers.

patient NEWS
DENTAL MARKETING & SOFTWARE

LOOKING FOR YOUR NEXT ACCOUNTING OPPORTUNITY IN HALIBURTON?

Patient NEWS, headquartered right here in Haliburton, is looking for a detail-oriented AR & Payroll Administrator to join our growing team. This hybrid role provides a great balance of in-office collaboration and remote work.

WHO WE'RE LOOKING FOR:

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- Organized, accurate, and able to juggle competing priorities without dropping the ball

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- Generate & manage invoices, group invoice summaries & statement of accounts
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We offer a competitive salary, hybrid work environment and a fantastic team culture that is supportive, fun, and genuinely great to be part of.

ABOUT PATIENT NEWS:
For over 30 years, Patient News has helped dentists across North America grow their practices. We've worked with 9,000+ dentists, delivered 200+ million campaigns, and have been recognized as a Top 100 Employer four times. We're proud to call Haliburton home.

Interested? Send your resume to:
Gary Quinn, Accounting Manager
gquinn@patientnews.com

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FOR SALE - Haliburton Micromeadows Native Plant Nursery - Open Fri-Mon, 10am-4pm at 1274 Lochlin Rd., Minden (located on private property). We carry a wide variety of native Ontario perennials, grasses, small trees and shrubs for gardens and habitat projects. Visit haliburton micromeadows.ca or follow us on Facebook @haliburton micromeadows

FOR SALE - MERCEDES BENZ 2017 GLA250, 4MATIC, 69,000km, always garaged, serviced at MB Peterborough, mint condition, charcoal, summer and winter tires on OEM wheels, certified, $18,500. text 705- 455-2333

HELP WANTED

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires a Grants & Procurements Coordinator (15-month contract)

The County of Haliburton is currently accepting applications for a Grants & Procurements Coordinator. This new, vacant position is currently offered as a fixed term 15-month contract.

Reporting to the Deputy Treasurer, this position secures external funding opportunities and ensures compliant and transparent procurement processes. This dual-function role prioritizes responsibilities associated with identifying, securing, and administering grants The successful candidate will have post-secondary education and 4-5 years of experience in a relevant field.

This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits. The hourly wage range is $36.32 - $42.49.

Visit our website at www.haliburtoncounty.ca/careers for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **Friday August 21, 2026, at 12:00pm**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details. In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

The Corporation of the County of Haliburton Requires Two (2) Truck Driver/Equipment Operators

Truck Driver/Equipment Operators are responsible for the safe operation of heavy equipment such as a trucks, backhoes, loaders, and wing plows. This position is responsible for maintaining roads, ditching, excavating culverts, and brushing.

Successful applicants will possess an DZ/AZ licence and have experience operating heavy equipment. These positions require an ability to work on-call hours and respond to short notice call ins, as well as good judgment and communication skills. The hourly rate for this unionized CUPE position is $30.19. This position includes participation in the OMERS defined benefit pension program and employer paid extended health benefits.

Visit our Careers page at www.haliburtoncounty.ca for a more detailed posting and job description.

Please forward your resume to shume@haliburtoncounty.ca no later than **August 24, 2026, at 12:00pm**.

We thank all who apply for this position; however, only those selected for an interview will be contacted.

The County of Haliburton is an equal opportunity employer. Accommodation can be provided in all steps of the hiring process, please contact Human Resources for further details. In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act,* the information gathered will be used solely for the purpose of job selection.

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Email your resume today to info@walkershvac.com

We thank all applicants for their interest, however only those candidates selected for interviews will be contacted.

Haliburton Sculpture Forest

We are looking for a Creative Leader

Due an upcoming retirement, we are looking for someone with great organizational skills, a passion for public art, and a familiarity with the Haliburton Highlands to take on the role of curator.

This is a part-time, year-round position that requires flexibility.

For full job description and how to apply:

www.haliburtonsculptureforest.ca

Deadline for application August 31, 2026

WANTED

WANTED ANTIQUES

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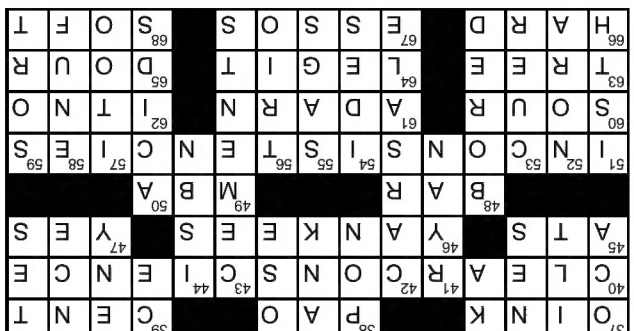
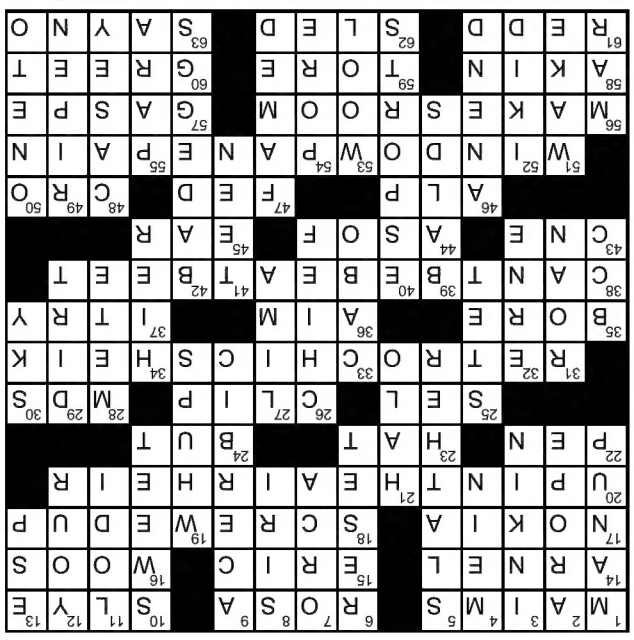
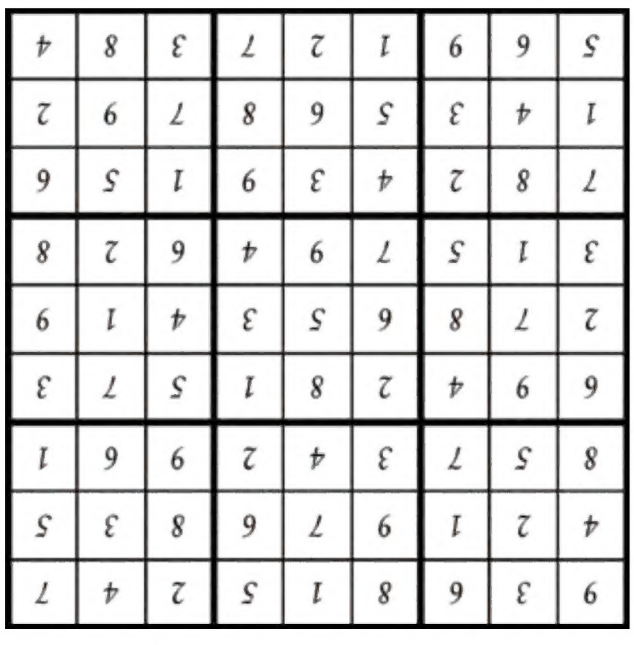


THIS WEEK'S SOLUTIONS





OBITUARIES

In Loving Memory of

Anne Margaret Beatty

(nee Harland)

With heavy hearts, the family of Anne Margaret Beatty announce her passing on Tuesday, August 4th, 2026, in her 91st year. Born on November 9th, 1934, in Toronto, the only child of her parents, Jean and George Harland. Beloved Wife of William "Bill" Beatty. Loving Mother of Margaret (David - predeceased) and David (Trisha). She is also lovingly remembered by her grandchildren Sarah and Sydney.

Anne and Bill were married on September 4th, 1957, spending a blissful 68 years together. After a long-time career of over 20 years as a Medical Secretary working in various doctors' offices and departments, Anne and Bill retired to Haliburton. It was here that she first tried her hand at making her own maple syrup, a hobby that would soon grow into a full-time business of its own. One of Anne's favourite pastimes was being toured around the lake by her very own personal Captain in their pontoon boat. Anne's warmth, love for life, and ability to bring joy to those around her will never be forgotten. She will be fondly remembered by all who had the privilege to know her.

Visitation & Funeral Service

Friends and family are invited to call on Friday, August 7, 2026, at the **HALIBURTON COMMUNITY FUNERAL HOME**, 13523 Hwy. #118, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0 (705) 457-9209 for a Funeral Service beginning at 11:00 a.m. Visitation one hour prior. An interment will take place following the Service at Evergreen Cemetery. As an expression of sympathy, donations to the Haliburton Highlands Health Services Foundation would be appreciated by the family

Community Funeral Home

FOR SALE

FOR SALE – 2 BARN DOORS, includes track & hardware. One is 37" x 81" and the second one is 34" x 84" $100. each. Closet wardrobe with 2 drawers, cream color, double doors, 31"W x 72"H $60. White pantry, double doors, 24"W x 59 ½ "H $40. Please call 705-286-0932

FOR RENT

CONDO FOR RENT – with option to purchase. Beautiful 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, air-conditioned Condo on top floor, corner unit, providing stunning view of Head Lake. Graniteview is located at 4 Lake Street, only 5 minute walk to lake & town amenities. Open concept, includes 1 indoor parking spot, storage locker, radiant heat, water & stainless appliances. Move in ready, all new paint. Available to rent, $2,900./month with option to purchase $559,000. during first 12 months of rental contract. Please contact 705-455-7568

FOR RENT

FOR RENT – Warehouse / Storage Space, located at 81 Mallard Road, Unit B, Main floor warehouse available for rent starting July 1st. Equipped with 2 Washrooms, Large main floor space, overhead mezzanine storage and commercial delivery garage door. This space was once set up as a commercial cooking space and a storage facility, but could easily be converted to: a Paint-shop, storage or office space. Call 705-457-2375 with enquiries.

HELP WANTED

We have built and owned a five-bedroom cottage in Haliburton on Redstone Lake for the past twenty five years. As an elderly couple in good health and energetic, we are looking for a husband and wife team to look after our cottage - the wife looking after the inside and the husband focusing on the outdoors. We would like our place to be visited once a week through out the year to accomplish tasks of cleaning, arranging, maintenance, and other requirements directed by us from time to time. We will gladly consider any reasonable expectations of compensation. Please call Suresh Bhalla at 416 904 6345

REPUTABLE BUILDING CONTRACTOR looking for a person with Carpentry Experience. Must have valid driver's license. Please call 705-754-4603.

HELP WANTED- Mark's Restaurant is hiring a part time server, must be 18 years of age or older, able to work evenings. 705-286-1818 and ask for Wilson or email marksrestaurant@icloud.com

WANTED

J & D TOWING & SERVICE STATION - will pay top dollar for scrap cars. We also provide towing services as well as flat bed. Call Jim 705-447-2113

WANTED – Scrap metal, fridges, stoves, any metal. We will pick up. Please call 519-820-5701 this is a Gooderham phone number.

NOTICE

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS MEETINGS - Sundays - 10:30 am at St. Anthony's, 27 Victoria Street Haliburton. Thinking about alcohol. Thinking about stopping. We've been there. We can help!

AL ANON- WE CARE, are you troubled by someone's drinking? Meetings: Thursdays 7 p.m., St. Anthony's 27 Victoria Street, Haliburton, and Mondays 7 p.m. at Highland Hills United Church, 21 Newcastle, Rear Entrance, Minden. 1-888-4AL-ANON (1-888-425-2666) al-anon.org All are welcome.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS Admission is free and the only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using. This meeting is for addicts only. New meeting in Haliburton that meets every Thursday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. at 83 Maple Ave. Unit 7A in Haliburton Halco Plaza, behind Castle Antiques. For more information and an online version visit www.cloana.org or call 1-888-811-3887

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Highlander puzzles

Double Talk

Barbara Olson
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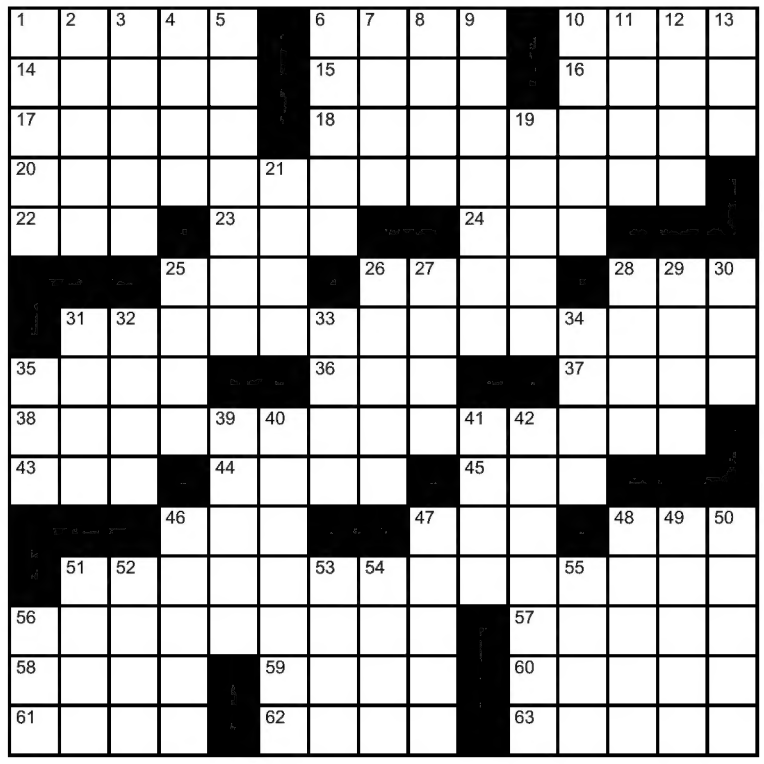

Across

1 Severely injures
6 "Brooklyn Nine-Nine" detective Diaz
10 Roy Rogers' real surname
14 Synthetic fibre brand
15 Peterson of "Corner Gas"
16 Acts the Romeo with
17 Finnish cell phone giant
18 Botched bigtime
20 Will beneficiary on a flight?
22 Farm enclosure
23 Donation receptacle
24 Counterargument start
25 NaCl, in French
26 Bit from a flick
28 "House" staff, for short
31 Arab leader into vintage clothing?
35 Drill down
36 Set one's sights on
37 Modest reply to "You're amazing!"
38 Borscht veggie of the highest quality?
43 T.O. summer fest
44 Beginning from
45 Musician's asset
46 Sherpa's workplace
47 Not mun. or. prov.
48 "Magnon" lead-in
51 Crack, to a glazier?
56 Scoots over
57 St. Lawrence peninsula
58 Similar (to)
59 Made distressed, as jeans
60 Do a Walmart job
61 "Sanford and Son" actor Foxx
62 Iditarod conveyance
63 Turn down

Down

1 "Don't be a wimp!"
2 Soap-on- ___
3 Finish, as a cartoon drawing
4 Word after lo or chow
5 Apply thickly
6 "Back to 0" button
7 Canucks logo creature
8 iPhone assistant
9 Bitter-tasting
10 "Awesome!"
11 "I'm stuck in ___ again" (CCR lyric)
12 FYI part
13 Medium's gift
19 Trounces but good
21 Head light?
25 No dele?
26 First Nations leader
27 Home to one quarter of Peruvians
28 Dish (out)
29 Gossiper's "goods"
30 It's over your head
31 Mottled horse
32 Coastal eagle
33 Baja resort city, for short
34 Yesterday, to Yves
35 Secretly loop in
39 Becomes unlocked?
40 Pro gamer's field
41 Summer job holder, often
42 Rotten rogues
46 Come to ___ (finish)
47 Known far and wide
48 Mudville slugger
49 Go soft, in a way
50 "You're ___ talk!"
51 Vigil over the deceased
52 "___ you not" (It's true")
53 Itchy fabric, for some
54 Study in detail, with "over"
55 "Legal" lead-in
56 Make a chip in the china, say

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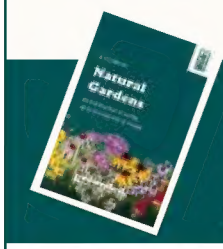

For a free guide to natural gardens in Haliburton County, visit groundedgardens.ca.

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	5			4				1
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		8	6				1	9
3				9			2	
		2		3				
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$1,190,000
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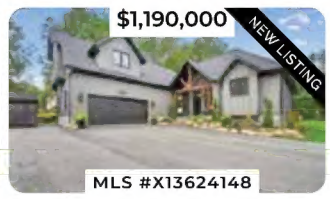
MLS #X13624148
BED 3 | BATH 2+1

HWY 118, HALIBURTON
Sold

MLS #X13520448
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$849,000
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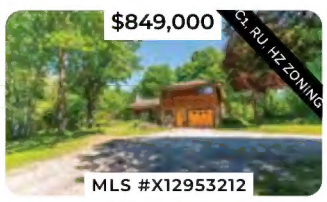
MLS #X12953212
BED 3 | BATH 2

BARNUM LAKE
$775,000

MLS #X13467094
BED 3 | BATH 1+1

TALLAN LAKE
$739,000
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MLS #X13467324
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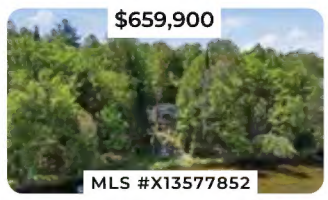
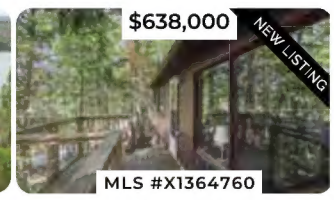

MLS #X13577852
BED 3 | BATH 1

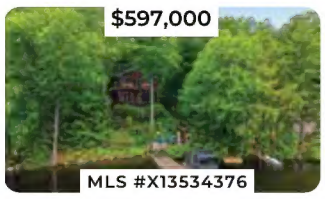
MOORE LAKE ACCESS
$649,000
NEW LISTING

MLS #X13643936
BED 3 | BATH 2

REYNOLDS ROAD
$640,000

MLS #X13185368
BED 2 | BATH 1

MISKWABI LAKE
$638,000
NEW LISTING

MLS #X1364760
BED 3 | BATH 1

ALLEN LAKE
$597,000

MLS #X13534376
BED 3 | BATH 2

WEST SETTLEMENT RD
$555,000

MLS #X13163216
BED 2 | BATH 1

SILVER BEACH
Sold

MLS #X13113762
BED 2 | BATH 2

KUSHOG LAKE, HWY 35
$489,900

MLS #X12604142
BED 3 | BATH 2

ALLEN LAKE
$475,000

MLS #X13495804
BED 3 | BATH 1

MONROCK LAKE
$475,000

MLS #X13177210
BED 3 | BATH 1

LITTLE STRAGGLE LAKE
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MLS #X13222622
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